

BOOK REVIEW

Spring Flowers¹

These eight talks given by Dr. Jennings in the series broadcasted by KDKA from the University of Pittsburg were designed as an appeal to get out into the open and watch with understanding the development of plant life. Beginning with Early April, a talk on the first flowers of the season, their habits and habitats, there follow talks on What is a Flower, How to Study Trees and Flowers, Protecting the Wild Flowers, Flowers of Early May, The Cultivation of Spring Flowers, Flowers of the Woods, Flowers of Field and Garden, The talks are simple and definite with an interest for nature lovers and, we hope, also for all those who go out to the woods and fields. It is to be hoped that many listened in to the talks and learned more to appreciate and care for our native plants, whose conservation is so greatly needed. We feel sure that Dr. Jennings talks must have been interesting and stimulating to his "radio audience" and that the talks in booklet form will be of interest to nature lovers everywhere.

GEORGE T. HASTINGS

¹ Trees and Flowers of Spring, O. E. Jennings, University of Pittsburg Radio Publication No. 52. 104 pp. June, 1929. 60 cents.

FIELD TRIPS

TRIP OF JUNE 9 TO ROCKAWAY BEACH

Seventeen members and guests of the club enjoyed the walk along Rockaway Beach on June 9. The sand dunes contained many interesting plants particularly *Hudsonia* in bloom, and *Artemisia*, a variety of color forms of wild roses from snow white to deep crimson, and abundant beach goldenrod, not in bloom. One of the party reported seeing a hog nose viper. We also happened on a nest of plover on the ground among the grasses on the dune, containing three eggs.

There was only one small annoyance, which was that we were prevented by a sentry from walking along the beach in front of the Naval Reservation at Fort Tilden, the aviation station. If this walk is held next year, as I hope it will be, a pass can be obtained beforehand. About 5 o'clock most of the

party took the Breezy Point ferry for Sheepshead Bay where they had dinner and so to the subway and home.

(The survival or return of the hognose viper, *Heterodon platyrhinus*, and the plover on this strand is interesting, considering the intensive building there in recent years, but probably the naval reservation area still maintains a limited preserve for such species.-R.H.T.)

ZAIDA NICHOLSON

FIELD MEETING OF SUNDAY AUGUST 18

The party on the field meeting of August 18, in the north-eastern part of the Harriman-Bear Mountain State Park, numbered twenty-eight, including about a dozen of the nature councillors in the Park camps, and members of the New York Microscopical Society, the New York Mountain Club, the Green Mountain Club, the Brooklyn Entomological Society, and others. The route was from Bear Mountain Inn, through the Nature Museum and trails, across Popolopen Creek, and by road and trail over Crown Ridge to Torne Pond, around the pond, out to the Forest of Dean Road and by Timp-Torne Trail across Popolopen Creek, and by the Popolopen Gorge Road back to Bear Mountain, about nine miles.

Among a number of interesting species seen, perhaps the most unusual was the Japanese Knotweed, *Pleuropterus Zuccarinii*, which was found in abundance and evidently well established about the ruins of an old farm, on the old Continental Road, on the west side of Torne Pond. This is an escape from cultivation, rather rare and local, which I have seen in only one other place, on the bank above the greenhouse in Central Park, New York City, east of the Andrew H. Green memorial. Four to eight feet tall, with its stout, reddish stems, ("Bambooish" said one of the party, and it does suggest a bamboo) with its large, velvety leaves, and handsome sprays of white flowers, it is a striking plant and appeared quite the exotic that it is, in its surroundings of native plants, although there were a few other introduced species, characteristic of these old homesteads in the Highlands of the Hudson, such as lilac, syringa, crab-apple, and comfrey.

The False Fox-gloves, the Downy, *Dasystema flava* and the Smooth, *D. virginica*, were seen along the old woodroads, and a somewhat rarer species was the Lousewort False Foxglove,

D. pedicularia, with its fine cut leaves and foliaceous calyx lobes.

Along the margin of Torne Pond, which had been raised two or three feet by a new beaver dam at the outlet and lowered in this summer's drought so that much muddy shore was exposed, interesting water plants were the Water Shield, *Brasenia Schreberi*, stranded in some places and floating in others; the Marsh Purslane, *Isnardia palustris*, stranded in the mud, and Linear-leaved Willow-herb, *Epilobium lineare*. *Clethra alnifolia* was in full bloom and pleasant with its strong, spicy odor.

Fungi were scarce, owing to the long drought, and likewise parasitic plants like Indian Pipe and Coral root, which were much harder to find than normally in these woods at this season.

Along the shore of the Hudson, the Purple Loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria* was in its usual striking display in mid-August. Upland occurrences were found in the bottom of a dried up pond in the Bear Mountain nature trail area, and in a springy spot along the road leading up from Fort Montgomery. I have usually regarded the displays of this plant in the brackish marshes along the Hudson, between Stony Point and Poughkeepsie or higher, as the most resplendent, but in coming down from the Catskills, by automobile, via the Rondout and Wallkill valleys, on the morning of the 18th, I saw larger expanses along those streams and in meadows in Orange County, ten miles west of the Hudson, which were the most glorious in massed purple that I have ever seen. With Ironweed and Boneset, these meadows made gorgeous color combinations.

RAYMOND H. TORREY

NEWS NOTES

The Mediterranean fruit fly has been much in the newspapers since it was discovered in Florida in April of this year. With an appropriation of \$5,000,000 Dr. Marlatt, Chief of the United States Plant Quarentine and Control Administration, organized an army of five thousand to wage a war of extermination. Their reports are encouraging, the spread of the fly has apparently been checked and in the regions of greatest infestation it has become difficult to find a specimen of the fly